

Jacaranda mimosifolia

Bignoniaceae

Brazil

English: Jacaranda, Brazilian rose wood

Nyanja: Jakaranda

Senga: Jakaranda

Ecology: A handsome tree widely grown as an ornamental throughout the tropics, 0–2,200 m. In Zambia, it is found frequently as an avenue tree and occasionally in parks and gardens; almost naturalized. A common tree in Eastern Province, it grows in most soils except waterlogged ones.

Uses: Timber, poles, bee forage, **ornamental**, **windbreak**.

Description: A deciduous or semi-deciduous tree growing up to 15 m with spreading branches forming a light crown. **BARK:** pale grey, smooth, becoming brown, rough and peeling with age. **LEAVES:** fern-like and **feathery up to 40 cm long; leaflets up to 30 pairs**, green when young, darker with age. Leaves fall in July–August and new ones appear in August–September. **FLOWERS:** striking **blue-violet clusters**; each flower bell shaped about 4 cm long; mostly in flower when not in leaf; July–October. **FRUIT:** **rounded, woody capsules with a wavy edge up to 7 cm diameter**, brown to almost black when mature; splitting on the tree to release numerous winged seeds. Capsules (pods) often persist on the tree for up to two years.

Propagation: Seedlings, wildings, cuttings.

Seed: Seeds profusely. Germination rate 50–85%. No. of seeds per kg: 63,000–80,000.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Can be stored up to two years.

Management: Lopping, pollarding, coppicing, pruning (young trees).

Remarks: This tree is fast growing on good sites, termite-resistant and drought-hardy but not compatible with crops.

